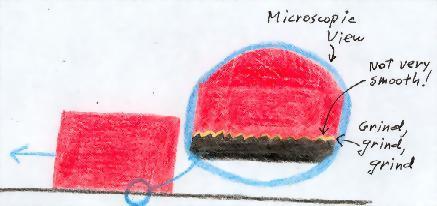
**Friction**

Every day you see moving things that slow down or come to a stop. The force that usually causes this to happen is friction. All friction opposes (goes against) motion. It causes moving things to slow down and even to stop. Friction is a force that appears whenever two things rub against each other. For example, when something moves along a surface there is always friction.   
  
Although objects might look smooth, microscopically, they're very rough and jagged, as this picture shows:



As they slide over each other, they grind and drag. This is where friction comes from.

The size of the moving object affects how much friction there is. Bigger and heavier objects usually have more friction because they are pressed harder onto the surface they are on. Sliding a heavy box across the floor is harder than sliding a small box across the same floor because the heavy box is pushed into the surface more.

The surface the object moves on also affects how much friction there is. Smoother surfaces like ice or tile floors aren’t as jagged so there are less places for friction to act. Surfaces like cement or sandpaper are rougher so there is more friction when objects move on them.